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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/661,270	09/12/2003	William Kress Bodin	AUS919980194US2	7767
35525	7590	11/13/2006	EXAMINER	
IBM CORP (YA) C/O YEE & ASSOCIATES PC P.O. BOX 802333 DALLAS, TX 75380			NGUYEN, VAN H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2194	

DATE MAILED: 11/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/661,270	BODIN ET AL.	
	Examiner VAN H. NGUYEN	Art Unit 2194	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 August 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 22-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 22-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to the amendment filed application filed 08/22/2006.

Claims 22-36 are currently pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended.

Claims 27-36 have been added.

Specification

2. The cross reference related to the application cited in the specification must be updated (i.e., update the relevant status, with PTO serial numbers or patent numbers where appropriate, on the Preliminary Amendment filed 09/12/03, page 1). Correction is required.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 23, 24, 28, 29, 33, and 34 are objected to because of the following informalities: the **abbreviations** used in these claims should be defined. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 22-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claims are directed to a signal directly or indirectly by claiming a medium and the Specification recites evidence where the computer readable medium is define as “a transmission-type media such as digital and analog communications links”. In that event, the claims are directed to a form of energy which at present the office feels does not fall into a category of invention.

Claims which are broad enough to read on statutory subject matter or on non-statutory subject matter are considered non-statutory. Cf. In re Lintner, 458 F.2d 1013, 1015, 173 USPQ 560, 562 (CCPA 1972) (“Claims which are broad enough to read on obvious subject matter are unpatentable even though they also read on nonobvious subject matter.”) During prosecution, applicant can amend to limit the claims to statutory subject matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 22-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Bodin et al** (U.S. 5,418,962). The reference was provided by Applicant in the IDS filed 09/12/2003.

As to claim 22:

Bodin teaches the invention as claimed including a device driver, in a computer readable medium, suitable for communication with a plurality of different types of devices, wherein each of the plurality of different types of devices conform to a common standard (*see the discussion beginning at col.2, line 24*), the device driver comprising:

- identification means for identifying all input/output ports relating to a basic device type common to the plurality of different types of devices (*see col.2, lines 41-68 and col. 4, line 56-col.5, line 10*);
- interrogation means using commands conforming to the standard and common to the plurality of different types of devices for polling a device within the plurality of different types of devices to obtain input/output ports used by the device in addition

to the input/output ports identified by the identification means (*see col.2, lines 41-68 and col. 4, line 56-col.5, line 10*); and

- trapping means for trapping input/output ports identified by the identification means and the interrogation means (*see the discussion beginning at col.4, line 6*).

As to claim 23:

Bodin teaches the device includes a PCI BIOS and wherein the commands conforming to the standard used in the interrogation means are PCI standard BIOS calls (*see the discussion beginning at col.3, line 64*).

As to claim 24:

Bodin teaches the device is a video adapter and the basic device type is an abstract SVGA including a standard VGA and additional non-standard VGA input/output ports used by the basic device type (*see col.2, lines 41-68 and col.4, line 6-col.5, line10*).

As to claim 25:

Bodin teaches additional input/output ports used by the basic device type are identifiable during installation of the device by a user option (*see col.2, lines 41-68 and col. 4, line 56-col.5, line 10*).

As to claim 26:

Bodin teaches additional input/output ports used by the basic device type are identifiable during installation by the device as removed from the basic device type and unused by the device through a user option (*see col.4, line 56-col.5, line 57*).

As to claims 27-31:

Refer to claims 22-26, respectively, for rejections.

As to claims 32-36:

Refer to claims 22-26, respectively, for rejections.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record, see PTO 892, and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant should review these references carefully before responding to this office action.

Contact Information

7. Any inquiry or a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist: (571) 272-2100.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VAN H. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571) 272-3765. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30AM-6:00PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternative Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, WILLIAM THOMSON can be reached at (571) 272-3718.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for patents
P O Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Van H. Nguyen
Patent Examiner, AU 2194